

Ripley County Democrat.

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'ROUNDABOUT THE STATE.

Cleaned from Exchanges—Made by the Shears, the Pencil and the Paste Pot—Some Original, Some Credited, and Some Stolen, but Nearly All Interesting Reading.

Six vacant houses were burned at Farnelt Monday afternoon of last week.

"My cows gave me permission to buy a motor car," is a Fulton dairyman's explanation of his evident prosperity.

A Bates county poultry sensation is a Pekin duck that according to the Butler Times, laid three eggs in one day.

Sometimes it is far better to have loved and lost than to have loved and won, observes the Fayette Democrat Leader.

"Sodom and Gomorrah" was a listed feature in the home talent production of "Dot, the Miner's Daughter," given at Mendon.

Jealousy crops out everywhere these days. The Ashland Bugle recites that a horse listened a while to the Jefferson City band, then fell dead.

At Sikeston recently a two year old boy fell into a tub of scalding water and was so severely burned that he died in great agony the following day.

Three thousand pounds of Missouri river fish represented one day's catch for two Saline county fishermen who shipped from Gilliam to city markets.

M. L. Coleman, who owns 240 acres of land in Lawrence county just east of Aurora, has just contracted for twenty-five miles of tiling for his farm.

An alley paved with brick is Knobnoster's latest boast, according to the Gem, explaining that the brick were supplied by a falling wall after the big fire.

Bidding was pretty slow at the real estate auction at Fayette. Even when a \$10 gold piece was sold it brought only \$9.75 and that's not doing very well for an auction.

Dennis Knowles recently shot a large black-headed eagle in a pasture near his home and expected to have it mounted but its wound-proved fatal before he could have it done.—Garden City Views.

The West Plains Journal reports that youngsters are complaining about a scarcity of material for making bean shooters since owners of a popular make of motor cars have begun using rubber bands for tires.

When J. H. Sallee of Oak Grove rounded out the forty-eighth year of his membership in the Odd Fellows, his fellow members thought the incident warranted recognition and gave him a "pie supper."

Work is progressing rapidly on the great McComas dam, near Edgerton, and it won't be long until the McComas Hydro-Electric company will be able to supply all the power that is needed in Platte, Clay and Clinton counties.

Already this year there has been 200 car loads of corn shipped from East Prairie, and that 1200 bushels to the car will total 240,000 bushels. That it is estimated the corn crop is no more than two-thirds gathered, and that about one-half million bushels of corn will be shipped from that point.

You are exempt from duty in any court if you follow any of the following vocations: State and naval officers; all judges of courts, coroners, postmasters, mail clerks, practicing attorneys, officiating ministers of the gospel, school teachers, during their term of school, practicing physicians, registered and assistant pharmacists, policemen, active members of the departments, mayors of cities, embalmers, undertakers, funeral directors actively engaged in their business, and all persons engaged in editorial or mechanical staff departments of newspapers of general circulation.—Exchange.

Just between more exciting events Harrisonville and Lowry City are having an eating contest between their society ladies. At a recent picnic a delicate Harrisonville girl ate twenty pieces of pork, a loaf of bread and drank half a gallon of black coffee. Not to be excelled, a Lowry City girl got away with two pounds of bologna, a pound of crackers and a gallon of coffee. Young men with slim bank accounts had better steer clear of the society buds of those two cities.—Dade County Advocate.

Being overrun with tramps who begged, Charleston decided to arrest and put them to work. The first one pried, impudently declined the labor assigned him, and was made to stand several hours with his handcuffed hands above his head. Then he was willing to work and leave town when released.

Missouri's oldest chauffeur, according to the Richmond News, is a Paul Wertz, 85 years and a resident of Richmond. Mr. Wertz was the first man in Richmond to buy and operate a motor car and despite his four-score years is one of the greatest motor enthusiasts in that locality.

The Citizen, published at Campbell, says the axe handle factory, the property of O. J. Gunning of that place was burned down early last Friday morning, destroying about \$3000 worth of machinery and some two car loads of finished axe handles. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Gower will soon vote bonds for replacing of the school house there, destroyed by fire incendiary origin in October. The National Board of Underwriters has offered a reward of \$500 for the arrest and conviction of the incendiary.

Saturday night, November 27th, at Kennett in the Frisco hotel, Ralph Sargus was shot by Bill Hopkins who used a double-barrel shot gun. None of the shots proved fatal and Hopkins made his escape. Cause of the shooting is said to be unknown.

James Robert Young, a well known attorney who resided at Illinois, died in the St. Francis hospital at Cape Girardeau Friday morning, November 28th, after a lingering illness caused from hardening of the arteries.

The new mining center being developed west of Pierce City in Lawrence county is attracting considerable attention and much prospecting is being done in that locality.

W. L. Hartell of Lenton has just finished the sargum-making season, during which he manufactured 2,500 gallons of "long sweetening."

The time is coming, says the Brookfield Argus, when nearly every church will have moving pictures as a feature of its service, and it wouldn't be a bad stunt at that. "Illustrated sermons" would look good, sound better, be best and get the people.

Sam Griffith is now completing his fourth year as "pedometer man" of Macon county, and has no local rival in the walking game. Mr. Griffith's pedometer registered 8,500 miles last year, and he started 1916 with the expectation of walking ten thousand miles.

Because their father, a barber, died soon after drinking from a bottle labeled "Bay Rum," five children have filed suit in Greene county against the barber supply company from which the liquid was purchased. The "Bay Rum" is alleged in the petition to have contained wood alcohol.

Nearly a hundred years old was the Randolph county landmark razed by fire the other night. The building was the two-story house of the John Penny homestead, eight miles northeast of Huntville. In early days it was the most pretentious house in the vicinity and for miles a round was the only house that was painted.

By consent of the girl's mother, W. R. Chaney, 58 years old, Saturday became the husband of Ida M. Franks, 13. Both reside in Springfield. The girl is the youngest who ever obtained a marriage license in Greene county. The bridegroom cannot write his own name, and it was necessary for his mark to be attached to the license.

G. C. Hogue, rural mail carrier, received a new box for his mail wagon, the first of the week. Mr. Hogue drove the old wagon 60,000 miles—150 miles a week for eight years. He has one horse that he has driven 50,000 miles. The new wagon is painted a bright green, in striking contrast to the common white mail wagon.—Tarkio Avalanche.

A gasoline tractor pays no attention when you yell "whoa" to it, and that's the reason a Lincoln county farmer was run over by a gang plow the other day and bruised up a bit. The farmer was plowing with a tractor, and without stopping the engine stepped from the machine to make an adjustment. The result was almost harrowing.

"Uncle Jack" Covington, Montgomery county's old hunter, is such a dead shot that when he shoots a squirrel he kills it so completely that the animal hasn't strength enough to kick itself off the limb. In such cases "Uncle Jack" climbs the tree for his game. Mr. Covington is 88 years old, leading his nearest competitor, Uncle Elvers, by five years in the "Oldest Nimrod contest."

Condemned as unsafe after supporting traffic across the Petite Saline in Cooper county for more than sixty-five years, Crawford's bridge, a covered structure, will be replaced by one of steel and concrete. The old bridge was erected in 1849 and rests on the original stone piers which will be resapped with concrete and used for the new one. The new bridge will be ready for travel by Feb. 1, 1916.

James Marley, who lives on the old Dittmore place, seven miles north of DeKalb, attended Thanksgiving services at the Dunkard church. After the services he went to the hitchrack and found his team and buggy conspicuous by their absence. A search failed to reveal their whereabouts, and he notified the chiefs of police of the surrounding towns, but failed to get any information. Though not a believer in "witch," as he admitted, he went to a fortune teller in St. Joseph, who immediately informed him that "his trouble concerned the loss of a pair of quadrupeds." The f. t. described the horses, the thief and the general direction which they had been taken. Accepting the advice of the futurist, Mr. Marley telephoned the officials southwest of St. Joseph and DeKalb, finally locating the team and buggy southwest of Sugar Lake, where the outfit had been offered for sale at a price which aroused the suspicions of possible purchasers and caused the abandonment of the team at that place by the thieves.—DeKalb Tribune.

Unknown parties "shot up" one of Tom Baird's tenant houses four miles south of this place Saturday night, slightly wounding one Bill Pool, and one of the two girls who recently moved from Campbell into the house. It is said that many shots were fired into the building, smashing the window lights and puncturing the weatherboarding. Pool received several pellets from a shotgun loaded with "squirrel," or No. 6 shot, one in the temple, one in the breast and several in the lower limbs. The woman received one small shot in the face. The cause of the shooting can only be conjectured. Some say it was to break up the frequent ogres of immoral persons in that locality. Whatever the cause may have been the attacking party were guilty of an unlawful act, and if apprehended will doubtless get more than they bargained for, or probably expected by their rash act.—Campbell Citizen.

Jim Shelton, while discussing the dog problem, suggested that it would be a good idea to send for Sam Roby, who was a neighbor of Jim's down near Missouri City some years ago. At that time, Jim says, the neighborhood was overrun with dogs of the sheep-killing kind, and scarcely a night passed that some farmer's flock did not suffer. On one particular evening Roby, with his shotgun, was on watch guarding his flock when he espied a dog in a patch of buckbrushes and turned both barrels of "Old Betsey" loose. Instantly three dogs ran out and on investigation Roby found he had killed five others, also hidden in the bushes, at the one shot.—Excelsior Call.

Tearing a Bible to pieces in the pulpit was the means a Brookfield preacher chose to attract the attention of a sleepy congregation as reported by the Budget. At the conclusion of the sermon the ushers were asked to hand to each person in attendance one of the torn leaves with the request that it be read before the next service. "Altogether the service was both novel and impressive," comments The Budget.

Absolutely Convincing. There is nothing quite as convincing as a distinguished heir, of the family of a wealthy relative, as the bequeathing of the whole estate to charity.—Pittsburgh Dispatch.

SEE END OF SLIDES

Panama Canal Blockades Will Soon Cease.

Latest Slide Last of Big Sliding Movements Predicted by Geologists—Never a Doubt as to Final Cure of Trouble.

By DONALD F. MACDONALD, Geologist of the Isthmian Canal Commission.

New York.—The slides of Culebra cut are again active in a spectacular way. They have blocked the canal and are therefore making demands on the interest of all nations that have a maritime trade. Hundreds of ships from all parts of the world, seeking the isthmus, have been held up. Many of them have put to sea again for the long and costly voyage around the southern continent.

Shipping men have become pessimistic over the canal blockade. The general public wonders how it will all end. Engineers, even those somewhat familiar with the conditions,

an enormous slide. That movement developed into the largest of the two slides that are now blocking the canal—probably the largest of all the Culebra cut slides. Its coming was definitely known for at least two years before it finally filled the channel.

At no time since the digging was begun did the chief engineer and his staff doubt the ultimate completion of the canal and the final cure of the slides.

The ultimate cure of the slides is not a matter of opinion that may be argued; it is a fact, just as the laws of chemical reactions are facts, or as the principles which underlie geological conditions are facts.

There seems to be current a widely held opinion that the causes of the slides in Culebra cut are not understood—that nobody knows just why they come down in such vast proportions and why they cause the bottom of the canal to bulge up.

As a matter of fact, there is not the slightest mystery about these slides. They are due largely to certain geological conditions, which are well and clearly known.

Under the conditions of sliding that now obtain there is only one remedy that has utilitarian value, and



Giant Dredges Removing Mountains of Earth From Culebra Cut.

have been more or less silenced by the unfamiliar vastness and the deep-seated character of the sliding movements. Now what are the facts?

Of all the slides that were once active in Culebra cut only two remain so. These two, being opposite each other, and very large, temporarily got the better of the dredges and closed up the channel for a distance of a few hundred feet.

Neither of these slides was unexpected. As early as 1911 and 1912 the writer, then geologist to the Isthmian canal commission, reported that the storm center of sliding would be in the vicinity of Zion hill and Culebra on the west side of the canal, and just north of Gold hill on the east side of it.

The present slides are the last of the big sliding movements, predicted at that time, which will occur. Again, in 1913, the writer prepared a special report calling attention to a deformation movement which was then slowly beginning to develop just north of Gold hill, and which would end in

that remedy is being vigorously applied. It consists in massing as many dredges at the critical zone of sliding as can be worked to advantage, and dredging the material away as rapidly as possible. Conditions have passed the stage where lightening up the upper banks with steam shovels would be practicable, and no other remedies would now be effective.

The hills which overlook the cut and which stand above the lower land through which the cut trends are formed of basaltic and other hard rock which will certainly not slide to any degree that need be considered.

It is expected that a channel 125 feet wide soon will be completed through the narrow sliding zone. From that time on for the next four or five months it is believed that the channel can be kept clear, though there is a remote possibility that it might become closed again for a short time. After that, however, sliding should blockade the canal channel no more as long as Gabriel's trumpet remains unsounded.

Missouri Once A Republic.

W. L. Webb, of Independence, a local historian, is responsible for bringing again to light the fact that Missouri at one time was a republic all its own.

"This fact," says Webb, "was officially and legally declared in the preamble to the state constitution under which Missouri was admitted into the union in 1821."

"Congress was in an uproar for two years over the admission of Missouri, but no objection was at any time urged against the clause that declared the State to be a 'republic.' This first constitution continued in full force until overthrown by the Civil War."

"As a republic, the State of Missouri had its own flag, a beautiful ensign of blue merino with the coat of arms of the State emblazoned in gold-gilt on each side. This flag and the stars and stripes floated together in perfect accord until the war broke out, whereupon the State of Missouri denied the right of any hoisting to trespass upon her

sacred soil and therefore flew to arms against the forces which invaded the State under the United States flag.

"For one whole year Gen. Price marched up and down the State at the head of the Missouri State Guard which carried the blue merino flag and fought many great battles and was victorious in them all. After the battle of Pea Ridge, March 7, 1863 the Missouri State Guard disbanded and General Price accepted a commission in the Confederate army, whereupon the State flag was furled forever. In its stead came the Secesh or Confederate flag. But the State of Missouri did not cease to be a legal republic until 1865 when the Drake constitution went into effect."—St. Joseph Observer.

John Weenan of Monticau county recently sold to Swift & Co. 368 head of 1,595 pound cattle at \$10.15 a hundred pounds receiving in payment a check for \$35,529.50 making the largest individual cattle sale reported in this part of the state.